

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A hammermill feed device, the feed device comprising:

a generally uniformly cylindrical feed roller, the feed roller having a longitudinal axis, and a roller surface for operation in conjunction with a horizontal hammermill, with said hammermill being generally cylindrical and with an axis parallel to an axis of said feed roller, with said hammermill comprising attached hammers extending from said hammermill;

a plurality of gripper teeth positioned in rows along said feed roller surface, said rows of gripper teeth extending from left and right lateral edges of said feed roller to a mid-circumferential center plane positioned normal to said longitudinal axis, in a generally chevron shaped arrangement, with[every] said rows [row] of said gripper teeth positioned non-perpendicular to said mid-circumferential center plane, whereby the angle of the rows on the left side of the mid-circumferential center plane are equal and opposite to the angle of the rows on the right side of the mid-circumferential center plane, with said rows of gripper teeth configured to laterally agitate material to be hammered so that said material does not feed straight into said hammermill, and to move material toward the mid-circumferential plane, and to grip material to be fed in order to resist kickback from said hammers.

2. (Previously Amended) The hammermill feed device of claim 1 in which the rows are generally parallel to each other and in which said teeth of one row are generally aligned with teeth of adjacent rows.

3. (Original) The hammermill feed device of claim 1 in which said gripper teeth are arranged in said rows in non-uniform teeth heights.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled) The hammermill feed device of claim 1 in which said rows have a non-congruent center portion of gripper teeth rows.

6. (Previously Amended) The hammermill feed device of claim 1 in which said rows of gripper teeth are angled from 60-30 degrees.

7. (Original) The hammermill feed device of claim 1 in which said gripper teeth extend from said roller surface in a direction not parallel to a line extending radially from the longitudinal axis of the feed roller.

8. (Currently Amended) A hammermill feed device, the feed device comprising:

a generally uniformly cylindrical feed roller for gripping material to be fed into a horizontal hammermill, the feed roller having a longitudinal axis, and a roller surface;

a plurality of gripper teeth arranged in rows, said rows of gripper teeth extending from a left and right lateral edge of said feed roller to a mid-circumferential center plane in a general chevron shaped configuration [type of arrangement], with every row angled to be non radial to said longitudinal axis[perpendicular relative to said mid-circumferential center plane], the angle of the rows on the left side of the roller center plane being equal and opposite to the angle of the rows on the right side of the roller center plane, with said gripper teeth [are] configured with non-uniform teeth heights, with said rows of gripper teeth configured to laterally agitate material to be hammered so that said material does not feed straight into said hammermill, and to move material toward the mid-circumferential plane, and to grip material to be fed in order to resist kickback from said hammers.

9. (Original) The hammermill feed device of claim 8 in which said gripper teeth are configured in a repeating pattern of relatively smaller teeth and relatively larger teeth.